

## REMARKS

This is a preliminary amendment for the above-identified U.S. Patent Application filed prior to action on the merits of the claims. However this preliminary amendment is subsequent to the amendment filed December 2, 2004, in response to the restriction requirement.

Applicants have elected to continue prosecution with claims 7 and 9 for a method of testing a group of test substances for one or more ligands to be administered as effective ingredients in a method of treating neuro-degeneration.

Claim 7 has been widened in its scope by the above changes. Previously the testing method of claim 7 was limited to a method of finding effective ingredients for treatment of neuro-degeneration in cerebral cortex.

However the above-identified application supports claims for a method of finding effective ingredients for treatment of neuro-degeneration in any part of the nervous system and claim 7 has been amended accordingly. There are other nerve tissue groups besides cerebral tissue.

The specification fully supports the broadened claim 7. For example, see page 11, lines 11 to 15, of applicants' specification, where it states that the "ligands found...can be used for... preventing and treating pathological deterioration of these functions (the normal cell functions of the nervous system)". Also note the disclosure page 4, lines 2 to 4, of the originally filed specification.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawing be further amended or corrected in formal respects to put this case in condition for final allowance, then it is requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing the case to allowance, he or she is invited to telephone the undersigned at 1-631-549 4700.

In view of the foregoing, favorable allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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